DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 400 128 RC 020 710

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TITLE American Indian Population Statistics.
INSTITUTION Northern Arizona Univ., Flagstaff. Inst. for Human Development.
SPONS AGENCY National Inst. on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (ED/OSERS), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE [96]
CONTRACT H133B30068
NOTE 42p.
AVAILABLE FROM American Indian Rehabilitation and Training Center, Institute for Human Development, Northern Arizona University, P.O. Box 5630, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5630 ($3).
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - General (130) -- Statistical Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Alaska Natives; *American Indian Reservations; *American Indians; Census Figures; *Demography; *Disabilities; Educational Attainment; Eskimos; Income; Mental Health; Place of Residence; Population Distribution; Population Growth; Population Trends; Socioeconomic Status; *Tribes
IDENTIFIERS Alaska

ABSTRACT

This report summarizes American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population statistics from the 1990 Census. In 1990 there were about 2 million persons who identified themselves as American Indians in the United States, a 38 percent increase over the 1980 census. More than half of the Indian population lived in six states, with Oklahoma having the largest Indian population. In 1990, 66 percent of the 1 million Indians 25 years old and over were high school graduates or higher, compared with 56 percent in 1980. In 1989, about 31 percent of American Indians were living below the poverty level. Most of this report consists of data tables and bar graphs that present the following data from the 1990 census: the 10 largest American Indian tribes; AI/AN population in each state; AI/AN population by age and sex; American Indian population of selected cities; Alaska's census count by race; largest American Indian tribes for 1980 and 1990 including the percent change in population during this time period; AI/AN population for 1970, 1980, and 1990; numerical growth and percent growth of the AI/AN population, 1970-80 and 1980-90; the 10 states with the largest AI/AN population; numerical growth of the AI/AN population in these 10 states for 1980-90; the 10 reservations with the largest AI/AN population; states with the highest percentage of AI/AN population; percent growth of the 10 states with the largest AI/AN population for 1980-90; distribution of the AI/AN population inside and outside AI/AN areas; AI/AN population for the Alaska Native Regional Corporations in Alaska; the 10 Alaska Native village statistical areas with the largest AI/AN population; and information on American Indians with disabilities, aged 15-64. (LP)

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American Indian Population Statistics

Timothy C. Thomason
Editor

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Funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC Grant No. H133B30068

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Overview of the American Indian Population

Demographics

Population: There are about two million Indian people in the U.S.
1990 Census: 1,959,234 American Indians & Alaska Natives
(1,878,285 American Indians, 57,152 Eskimos, and 23,797 Aleuts)

This is a 38% increase over the 1980 census of 1,420,285.
Since this large increase is not possible based on known birth rates and death rates, the increase is probably due to improved census taking and more self-identification during the 1990 count.

States with highest Indian population:

Oklahoma, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Washington, North Carolina, Texas, New York.
About one-half of American Indians live west of the Mississippi River, and one-half live east of it.
More than half the Indian population lives in just 6 states.
Oklahoma has 252,000 Indian people; California 242,000; Arizona 204,000; New Mexico 134,000; Alaska 86,000; Washington 81,000; North Carolina 80,000.

Number of Tribes:

510 federally-recognized tribes (including about 200 village groups in Alaska).
36 state-recognized tribes.

Note: there are additional tribes which have not received state or federal recognition. Some have not sought it.

Largest tribes:	Cherokee	(308,000 people)	16% of total
	Navajo	(219,000 people)	11% of total
	Chippewa	(104,000 people)	5% of total
	Sioux	(103,000 people)	5% of total
	Choctaw, Pueblo, Apache, Iroquois, Lumbee		

Note: These are U.S. Census figures, which are based on self-identification. Although the Cherokee tribe is listed as the largest, its official enrollment is less than the Navajo, and Cherokee tribal officials acknowledge the Navajo as the largest tribe.

Languages: 149 different tribal languages and dialects are still spoken today.

Reservations: 278 federal reservations in the U.S.
209 Alaska Native Villages
Largest: Navajo (16 million acres)
Many are less than 1000 acres in size.

Note: there are additional tribal lands, rancherias, colonies, and historic Indian areas which are not federally recognized.

Place of residence:

22% of Indian people live on reservations and trust lands
10% live in tribal jurisdiction areas in Oklahoma
3% live in other tribal jurisdiction areas
2% live in or near Alaska Native villages
11% live in non-reservation rural areas
52% live in urban areas

Half of all reservation residents live on just 10 of the 278 reservations, and 6 of these are in Arizona.

Who is an Indian?

"American Indian" is the only race in the U.S. for which there are legal definitions. However, no single federal or tribal criteria establishes a person's identity as an Indian. Different government agencies use different criteria. Tribes also have varying eligibility criteria for membership.

Four different legal definitions:

1. Bureau of Indian Affairs: blood quantum must be at least one-fourth; must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.
2. Federal Department of Education: the person must be registered by a tribe.
3. Bureau of the Census: self-identification (without verification).
4. Tribal governments: usually based on blood quantum (the degree of blood quantum required varies widely among tribes. Navajo must be at least one-fourth; Cherokee must have a Cherokee ancestor, no matter how remote).

Multiracial Indians:

A new "multiracial" category in the census would subtract people from the standard minority groups. The more people there are who are multiracial, the fewer there are who are Indian or Black.
70% of American Indians marry outside their ethnic group.
70% of the people who identified themselves as American Indian in the Census were seen as White by the census taker.

Education:

66% of American Indians age 25 and older were high school graduates in 1990 (compared to 75% of the total population).
9% of American Indians completed a college degree in 1990 (compared to 20% of the total population).

Income and Employment:

In 1990, the median family income of Indian people was $21,750 ($13,475 less than the national average).
In 1990, 27% of all Indian families were maintained by a female with no husband present, with a median income of $10,742.
In 1989, 31% of all American Indians were living below the poverty level (compared to 13% of the total population).
In 1989, 51% of Indian people living on reservations and trust lands were living below the poverty level.
In 1990, 20% of all Indian homes on reservations lacked plumbing facilities. The rate on the Navajo reservation was 49%. The unemployment rate of Indian people ranges from 27% in urban areas to 80% on some reservations.

Mental Health of Indian People:

Most common health/mental health problem:
alcohol abuse and addiction.

Other common disorders:
anxiety, depression, adjustment disorders.
Suicide rate of Indian teenagers: twice the national average.
Suicide rate of Alaska Natives age 20-24: 10 times the national average.

Alcoholism:

Tribes vary greatly in use of alcohol. Some tribes have an almost zero rate of alcoholism. Many Indians do not drink at all. However, as a whole, the alcoholism rate of Indian people is three times the rate in the general population. Indian people are 10 times more likely to die due to alcoholism. Alcohol is a factor in:

90% of crimes for which Indian people are jailed
80% of suicides of Indian people
75% of fatal accidents involving Indian people

Service Providers:

Of all graduate students who earn doctorates in psychology in the U.S. each year, only 0.4% are American Indian. There are a total of about 250 American Indian mental health workers at any degree level (one for every 8000 Indians). There are a total of about 230 Indian people who have a masters or doctoral degree in psychology. Some of these practice psychology, but many are in research or education. There is only one psychologist (of any race) for every 43,000 American Indians. There are less than 1000 traditional Indian healers. It is estimated that about half of these live on the Navajo reservation (where there is one traditional healer per 286 people).

Census Publishes Data on American Indians

The Bureau of the Census has published the American Indian and Alaska Native data it collected during the 1990 census year. *We, the First Americans,* is a 17-page booklet divided into three sections that provides a wealth of data on the two million people who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native in the census. Although the booklet is no longer available from the Bureau of the Census, it can be ordered from the American Indian Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, P.O. Box 5630, Flagstaff, AZ, 86011 for $2,00 (order #AI 1). Most of the information in the booklet has been released separately, but the new booklet brings all the data together in a format that lists the ten largest American Indian tribes in the country, the states with the largest Indian populations, education and poverty rates, labor force information, family income, Indian reservations, and family household sizes. Section 3 of the booklet is devoted to Alaska Native populations in Alaska.

According to the Census, which uses self-identification for census-data purposes, the ten largest American Indian tribes or groups of people who identified themselves as members of tribes are Cherokee (308,000), Navajo (219,000), Chippewa (104,000), Sioux (103,000), Choctaw (82,000), Pueblo (53,000), Apache (50,000), Iroquois (49,000), Lumbee (48,000), and Creek (44,000). The ten states with highest numbers of people who identified themselves as Indian include Oklahoma, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Washington, North Carolina, Texas, New York, and Michigan. Two of every three American Indians live in the 10 states and more than half live in just six states, Oklahoma, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, and Washington.

Thirty-nine percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population was under 20 years of age in 1990 compared with 29 percent of the Nation's total population. About eight percent of all American Indians were 60 years old and over, about half of the 17 percent proportion for the total population. In 1990, 66 percent of the one million American Indians 25 years old and over were high school graduates or higher compared with only 56 percent in 1980. Some 27.3 percent of the American Indian families are maintained by a female householder without a husband present. Sixty-two percent of the 1.4 million American Indians and Alaska Natives 16 years old and over were in the labor force in 1990, only three percent below the percentage for the total population. The median family income was $21,750 compared with $35,225 for the total population. In 1989, about 603,000 or 31 percent of American Indians were living below the poverty level. The national poverty rate was about 13 percent.

The Census Bureau says the ten Indian reservations with the largest number of American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts, six of which are located partly or fully in Arizona, were Navajo (Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah), Pine Ridge (North and South Dakota), Fort Apache (Arizona), Gila River (Arizona), Papago (now known as Tohono O'Ddham, Arizona), Rosebud (South Dakota), San Carlos (Arizona), Zuni Pueblo (New Mexico), Hopi (Arizona), and Blackfeet (Montana). Only Navajo has more than 100,000 population while Pine Ridge is the only other to have more than 10,000 residents . An additional eight reservations had more than 7,000.

American Indians - 1990 Census Data

The Bureau of the Census has released the first set of Indian population counts from the 1990 census for all 50 states. The figures are part of the data furnished to state Legislatures for use in the reapportionment of congressional seats, as well as the drawing of state and local voting district boundaries.

The figures show that Oklahoma once again is the state with the largest number of Indian people, a distinction that it lost to California in 1980. According to the figures, Oklahoma gained nearly 83,000 Indian people between the 1980 and 1990 census, while Arizona and California gained the second and third largest numbers.

In percentage terms, the state with the biggest proportional increase in the Indian population was Alabama. Its percentage increase from 1980 to 1990 was 118 %. Tennessee gained 97 % and Florida 89 %, according to the figures. While the Indian and Native Alaskan population grew by nearly 38 % nationally from the 1980 Census to the 1990 Census, some areas grew considerably faster than others.

A preliminary analysis by the Information Office of the Indian and Native American Employment and Training Coalition of the population figures for various types of Indian Land Areas shows that the highest rate of growth over the decade was registered in the Indian areas of Oklahoma. These areas (consisting primarily of former reservation lands) increased their Indian population from roughly 116,000 in 1980 to nearly 201,000 in 1990 for a growth rate of 72.5%.

The Indian population in other Indian and Native Alaskan land areas also grew significantly, but at a much slower rate. The Indian population in reservation areas and within trust outside reservation boundaries grew from 370,000 to about 437,000 over the decade - a growth rate of 18%. The Native Alaskan population in Native Alaskan villages increased by 20% from about 39,000 to 47,000.

The largest change in the Indian and Native Alaskan population occurred in areas outside the reservations, the former reservations in Oklahoma and the native villages in Alaska. In terms of numbers, the other parts of the united States grew from nearly 900,000 Indian and Native Alaskan people in 1980 to 1,275,000 in 1990, and overall rate of growth of 42%. This portion of the Indian and Native Alaskan populations in what might loosely be referred to as "off-reservation" areas now accounts for 65% of the total number of the Indian and Native Alaskan people counted by the census. In 1980, this percentage was 63%.

This information was provided by: Indian and Native American Employment and Training Coalition Information Office, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007, (202) 342-0594.

Ten Largest American Indian Tribes

1. Cherokee 308,000
2. Navajo 219,000
3. Chippewa 104,000
4. Sioux 103,000
5. Choctaw 82,000
6. Pueblo 53,000
7. Apache 50,000
8. Iroquois 49,000
9. Lumbee 48,000
10. Creek 44,000

Source: 1990 Census

1990 Census of Population
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut Sub Population in Each State

Alabama	16,506
Alaska	85,698
Arizona	203,527
Arkansas	12,773
California	242,164
Colorado	27,776
Connecticut	6,654
Delaware	2,019
District of Columbia	1,466
Florida	36,335
Georgia	13,348
Hawaii	5,099
Idaho	13,780
Illinois	21,836
Indiana	12,720
Iowa	7,349
Kansas	21,965
Kentucky	5,769
Louisiana	18,541
Maine	5,998
Maryland	12,972
Massachusetts	12,241
Michigan	55,638
Minnesota	49,909
Mississippi	8,525
Missouri	19,835
Montana	47,679
Nebraska	12,410
Nevada	19,637
New Hampshire	2,134
New Jersey	14,970
New Mexico	134,355

New York	62,651
North Carolina	80,155
North Dakota	25,917
Ohio	20,358
Oklahoma	252,420
Oregon	38,496
Pennsylvania	14,733
Rhode Island	4,071
South Carolina	8,246
South Dakota	50,575
Tennessee	10,039
Texas	65,877
Utah	13,426
Vermont	1,696
Virginia	15,282
Washington	81,483
West Virginia	2,458
Wisconsin	39,387
Wyoming	9,479
Total population of American Indians, Eskimo, or Aleut people	**1,948,377**

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Public Law 94-171 Data.
CD-ROM. Washington, DC.; US. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. March 1991.

American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut Population by Age & by Sex

Age	Male	Female
Under 1 Year	18,303	17,786
1 and 2 years	43,307	41,927
3 and 4 years	41,018	39,609
5 years	20,636	20,021
6 years	19,985	19,469
7 to 9 years	60,567	58,768
10 and 11 years	39,623	38,182
12 and 13 years	38,032	36,435
14 years	18,092	17,636
15 years	18,348	17,392
16 years	18,320	17,566
17 years	18,644	17,301
18 years	18,618	17,180
19 years	19,128	18,019
20 years	18,159	16,965
21 years	17,422	15,979
22 to 24 years	49,462	47,562
25 to 29 years	87,474	88,103
30 to 34 years	82,744	87,924
35 to 39 years	72,594	77,588
40 to 44 years	61,194	64,960
45 to 49 years	46,993	49,824
50 to 54 years	36,888	39,826
55 to 59 years	29,345	32,465
60 to 61 years	10,208	11,237
62 to 64 years	13,984	15,960
65 to 69 years	19,298	23,412
70 to 74 years	12,500	16,770
75 to 79 years	08,460	12,692
80 to 84 years	04,557	07,559
85 years or over	03,274	05,931
Total	**967,186**	**992,048**

Grand Total: 1,959,234

Source: Bureau of Census. (1992). United States Summary. Census of Population & Housing. Summary tape 1C. CD-ROM. US. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC.

American Indian Population of Selected Cities

City	Total Population	American Indian
Albuquerque, NM	480,577	16,296
Atlanta, GA	2,833,511	5,532
Austin, TX	781,572	2,827
Baltimore, MD	2,382,172	6,444
Chicago, IL	7,332,962	14,178
Cleveland, OH	1,831,122	3,038
Colorado Springs, CO	397,014	3,242
Dallas, TX	3,8852,415	18,972
Denver, CO	1,848,319	13,884
El Paso, TX	591,610	2,590
Houston, TX	3,493,644	10,277
Las Vegas, NV	741,459	6,416
Los Angeles, CA	8,863,164	45,508
LA Metropolitan Area	3,485,000	87,500
Minneapolis, MN	2,464,124	23,956
New York, NY	7,323,000	48,000
Oklahoma City, OK	445,000	45,700
Phoenix, AZ	2,1022,101	38,017
Salt Lake City, UT	1,072,227	8,337
San Diego, CA	2,498,016	20,066
San Francisco, CA	3,686,592	21,462
Seattle/Tacoma, WA	2,559,164	32,462
Tucson, AZ	666,880	32,071
Tulsa, OK	367,000	48,000

Source: 1990 Census

Alaska's 1990 Census Counts by Race

The Alaska Department of Labor, State Data Center, has released the population counts by race from the 1990 census. All racial categories gained population in the past decade as the state grew from 401,851 in 1980 to 550,043 in 1990. Both white and native racial groups made up smaller percentages of the total population than in 1980. The Asian and Pacific Islander category grew by the largest percentage with the Black population also growing at a faster rate than the state as a whole. Persons of Hispanic origin are spread across all racial groups, but were also tallied separately in the 1990 census. The percentage of Hispanics grew from 2.4% in 1980 to 3.2% in 1990.

Largest American Indian Tribes for the United States: 1990 and 1980

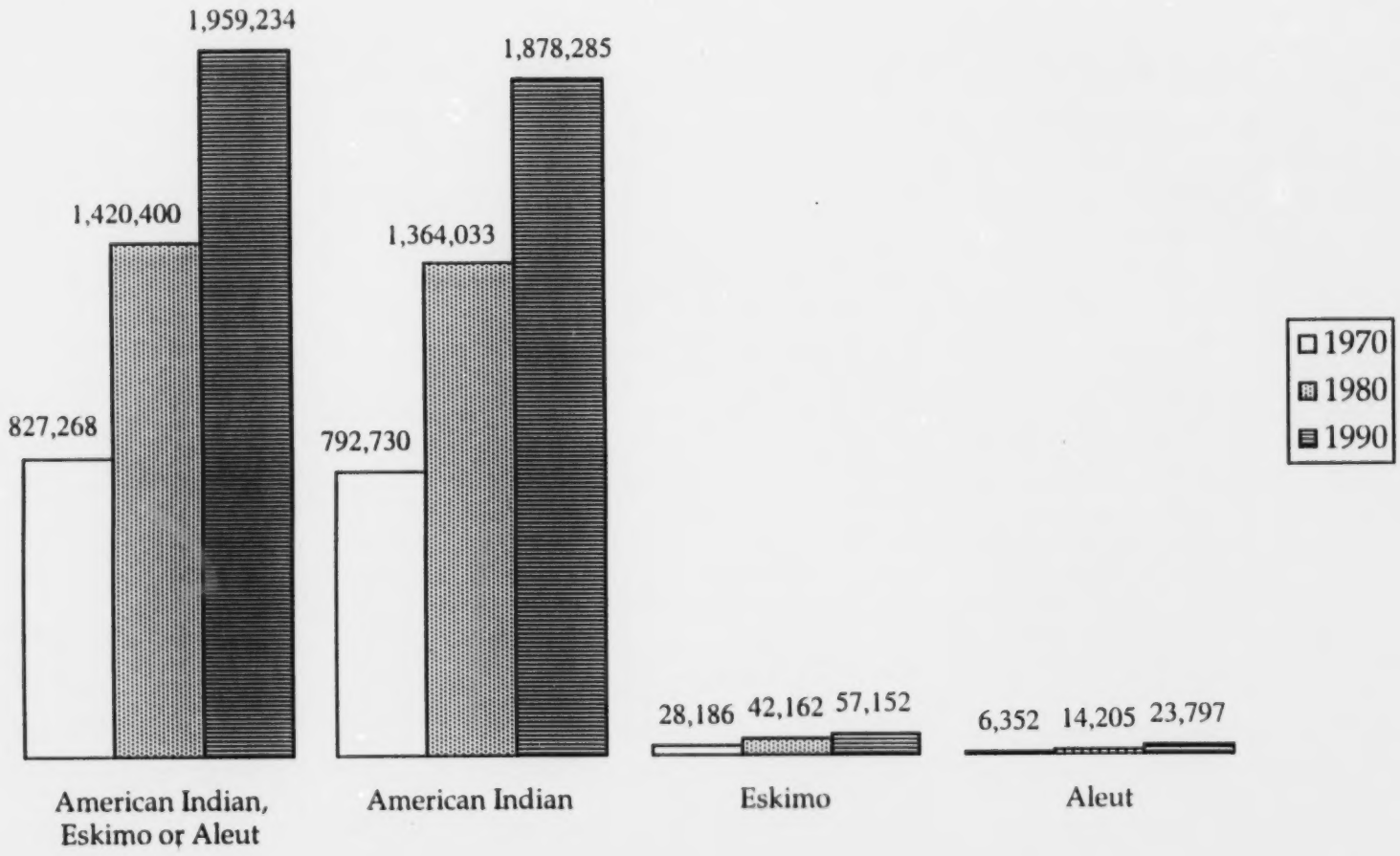
(Data are based on a sample)

Tribe	1990 Census		1980 Census		Change	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All American Indians	1,937,391	100.0	1,478,523	100.0	458,868	31.0
Cherokee	369,035	19.0	232,080	15.7	136,955	59.0
Navaho	225,298	11.6	158,633	10.7	66,665	42.0
Sioux	107,321	5.5	78,608	5.3	28,713	36.5
Chippewa	105,988	5.5	73,602	5.0	32,386	44.0
Choctaw	86,231	4.5	50,220	3.4	36,011	71.7
Pueblo (2)	55,330	2.9	42,552	2.9	12,778	30.0
Apache	53,330	2.8	35,861	2.4	17,469	48.7
Iroquois (3)	52,557	2.7	38,218	2.6	14,339	37.5
Lumbee (4)	50,888	2.6	28,631	1.9	22,257	77.7
Creek	45,872	2.4	28,278	1.9	17,594	62.2
Blackfoot (2)	37,992	2.0	21,964	1.5	16,028	73.0
Canadian and Latin American	27,179	1.4	7,804	0.5	19,375	248.3
Chickasaw	21,522	1.1	10,317	0.7	11,205	108.6
Tohono O'Ddham	16,876	0.9	13,297	0.9	3,579	26.9
Potawatomi	16,719	0.9	9,715	0.7	7,004	72.1
Seminoe (2)	15,564	0.8	10,363	0.7	5,201	50.2
Pima	15,074	0.8	11,722	0.8	3,352	28.6
Tlingit	14,417	0.7	9,509	0.6	4,908	51.6
Alaskan Athabaskans	14,198	0.7	10,136	0.7	4,062	40.1
Cheyenne	11,809	0.6	9,918	0.7	1,891	19.1
Comanche	11,437	0.6	9,037	0.6	2,400	26.6
Paiute	11,369	0.6	9,523	0.6	1,846	19.4
Osage	10,430	0.5	6,884	0.5	3,546	51.5
Puget Sound Salish	10,384	0.5	6,591	0.4	3,793	57.5
Yaqui	9,838	0.5	5,197	0.4	4,641	89.3

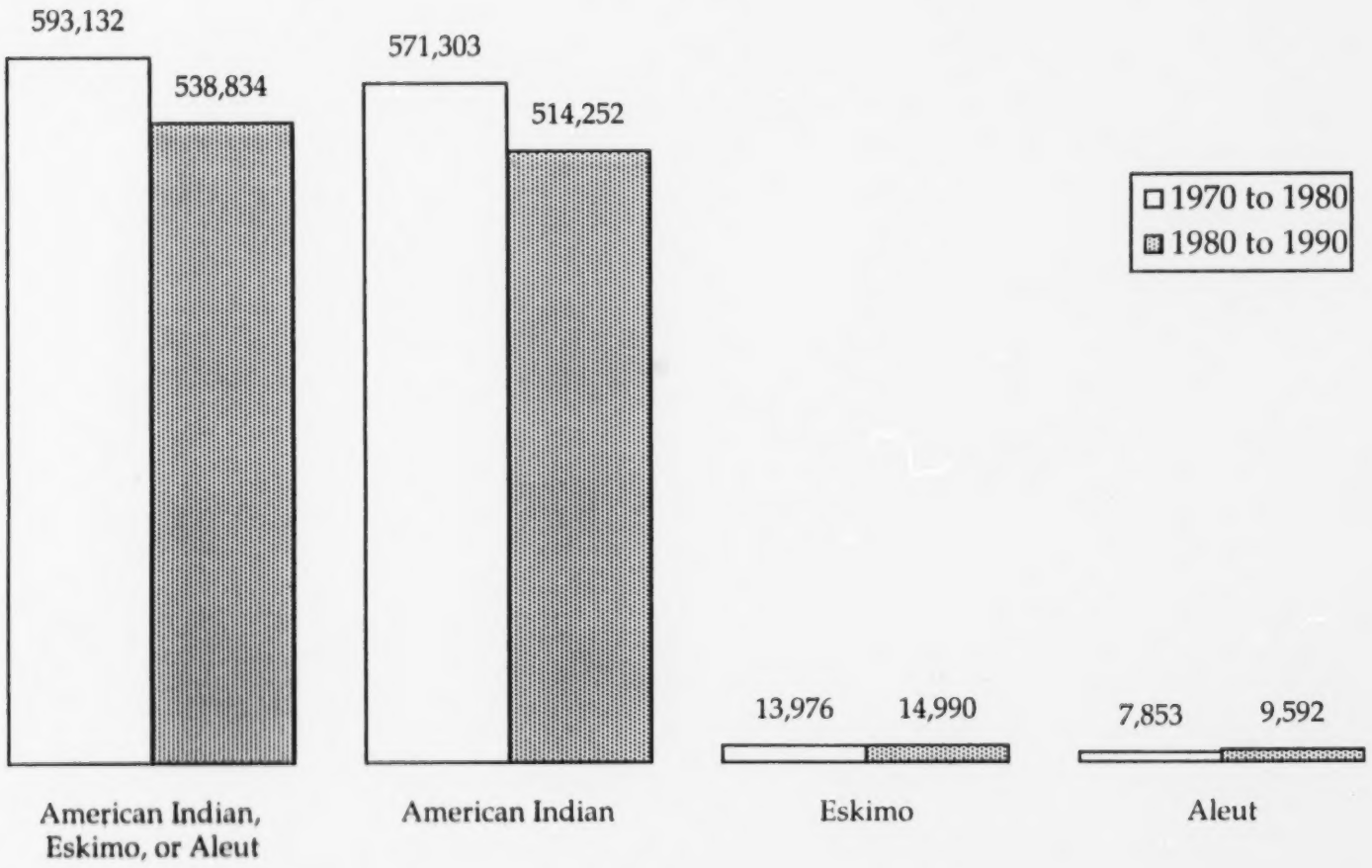
1. Any entry with the spelling "Siouan" in the 1990 census was miscoded to Sioux in North Carolina.
2. Reporting and/or processing problems the 1980 census have affected the data for this tribe
3. Reporting and/or processing problems in the 1990 census have affected the data for this tribe.
4. Miscoding of entries in the 1980 census for "Lummee," :"Lummi," "Lumbee," or "Lumbi" have affected the data for this tribe.

Source: Racial Statistics Branch, Population Divisions, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233

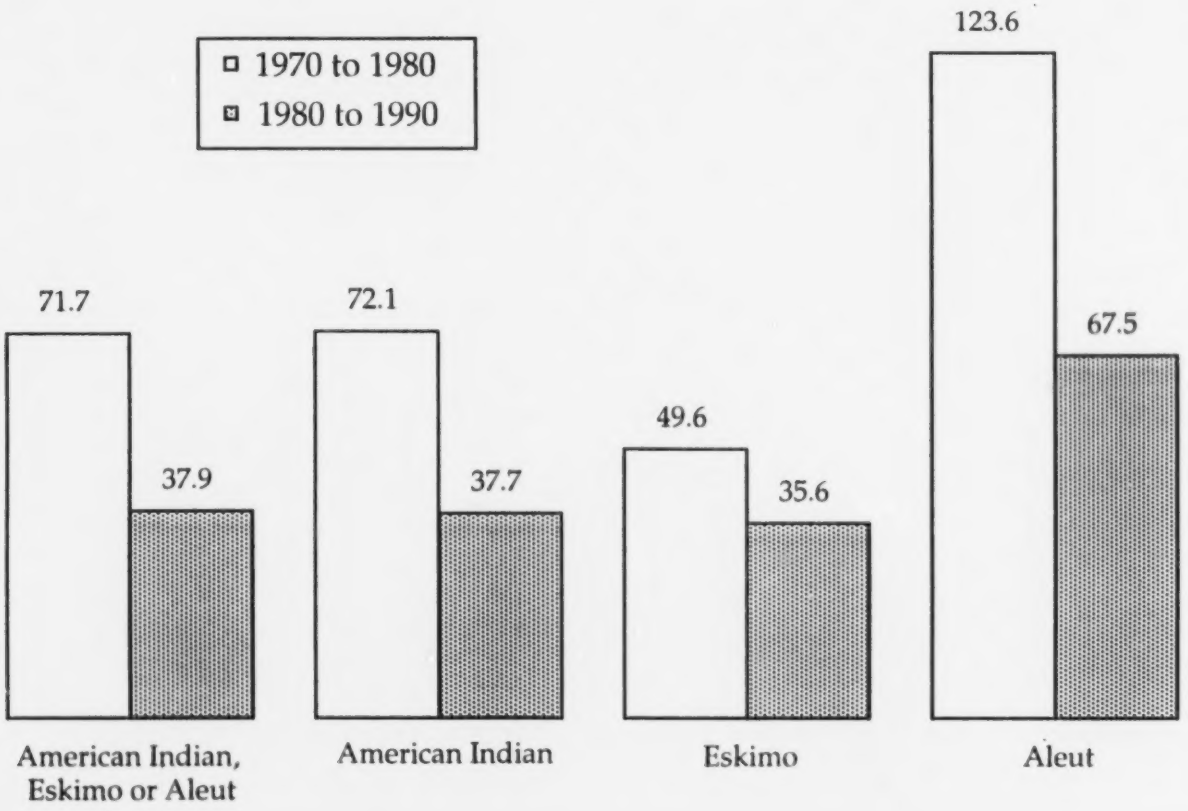
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Populations:
1970, 1980 and 1990



Numerical Growth of the American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Population: 1970 to 1980 and 1980 to 1990



Percent Growth of the American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Populations: 1970 to 1980 and 1980 to 1990



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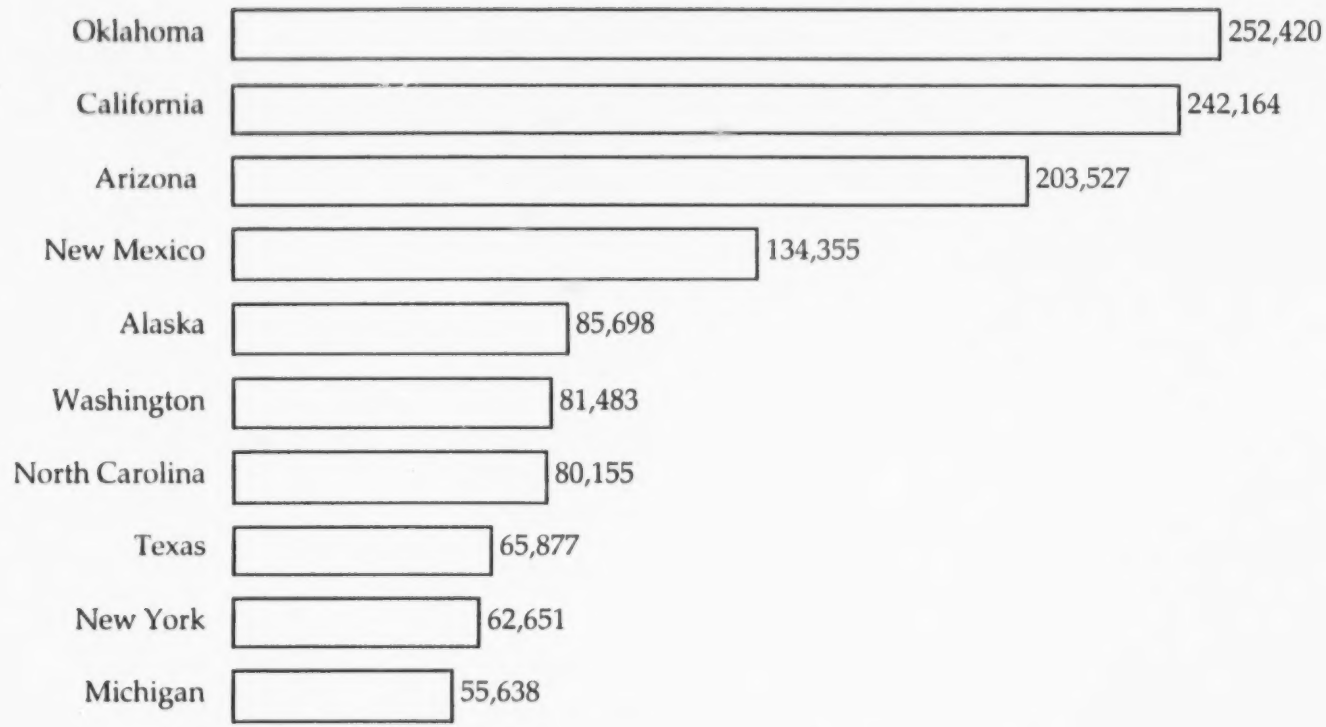
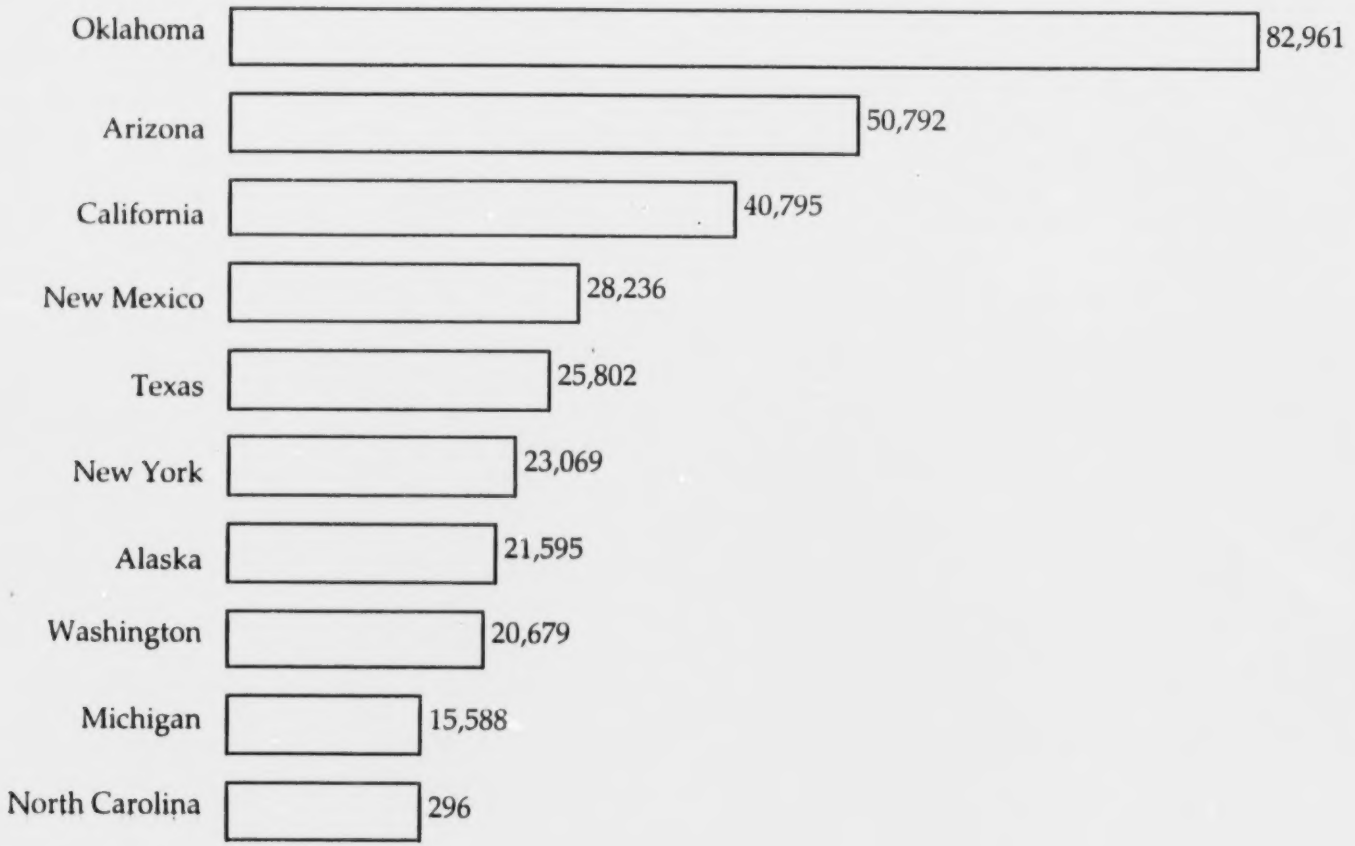
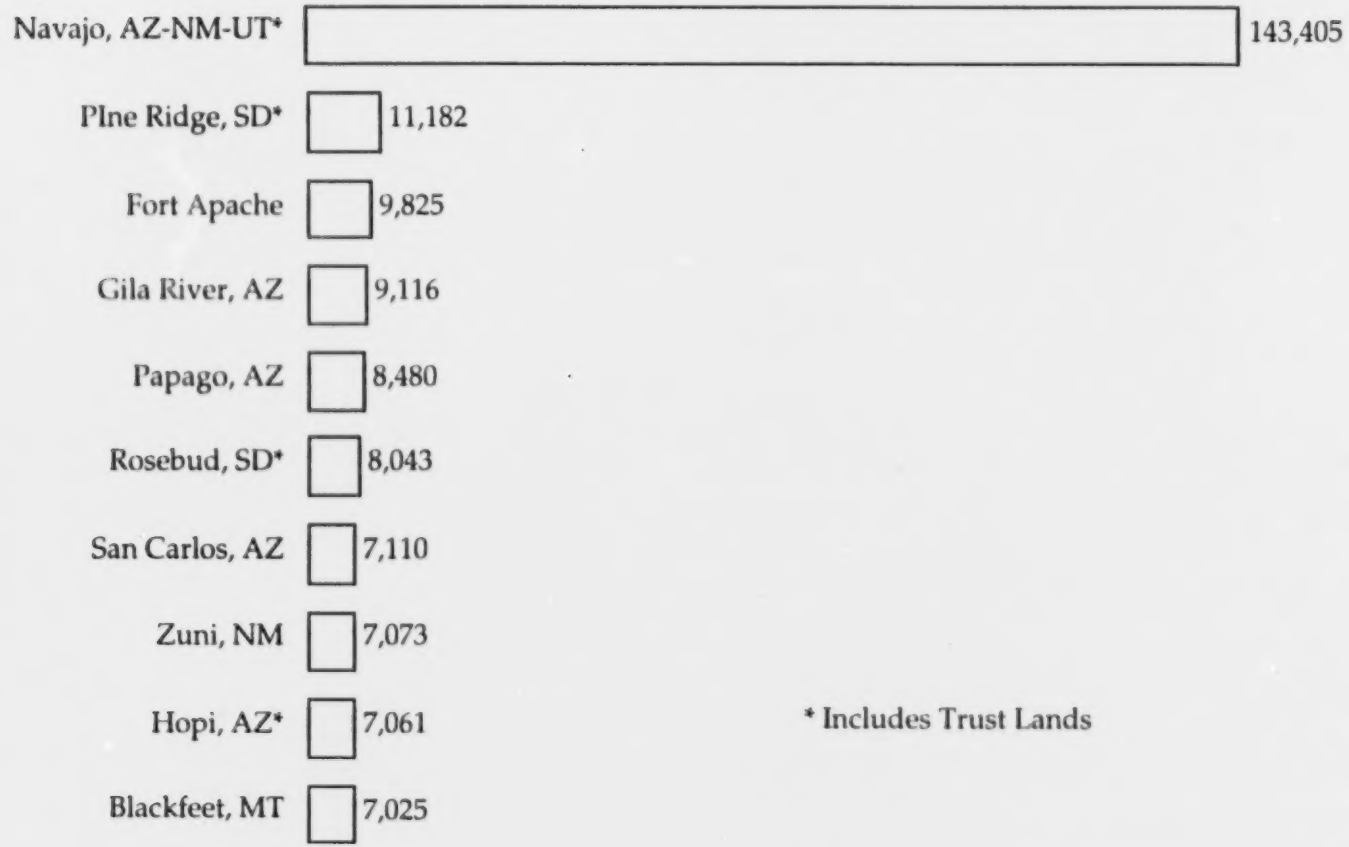
Ten States with the Largest American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Population: 1990



Numerical Growth of the Ten States with the Largest American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Population: 1980 to 1990



Ten Reservations with the Largest American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Population: 1990



* Includes Trust Lands

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States with the Highest Percentage American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut Population: 1990

Percent Growth of the Ten States with the Largest American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut Population : 1980 to 1990

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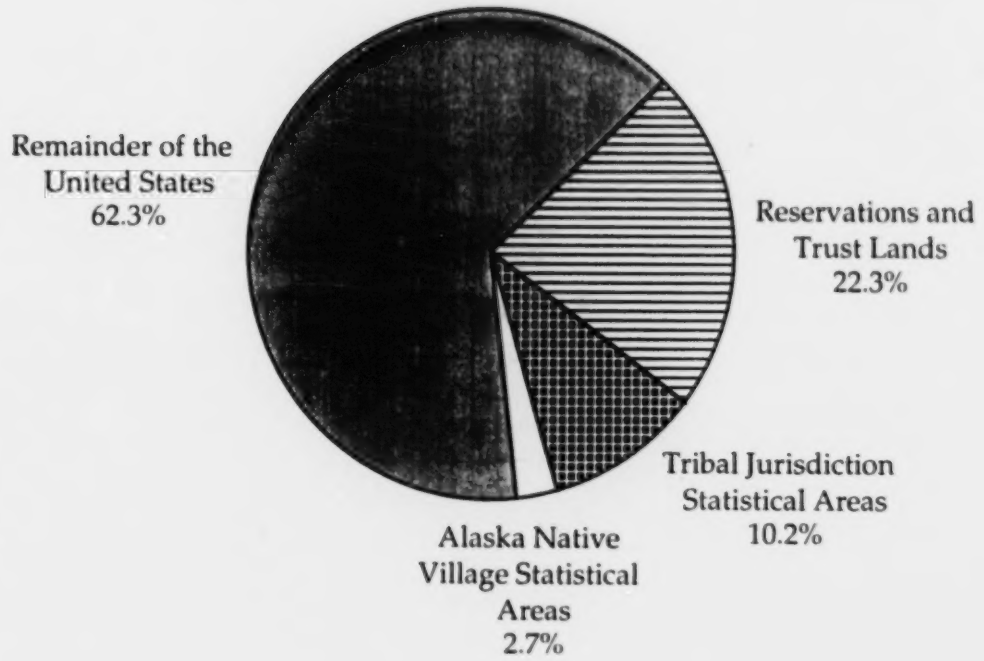
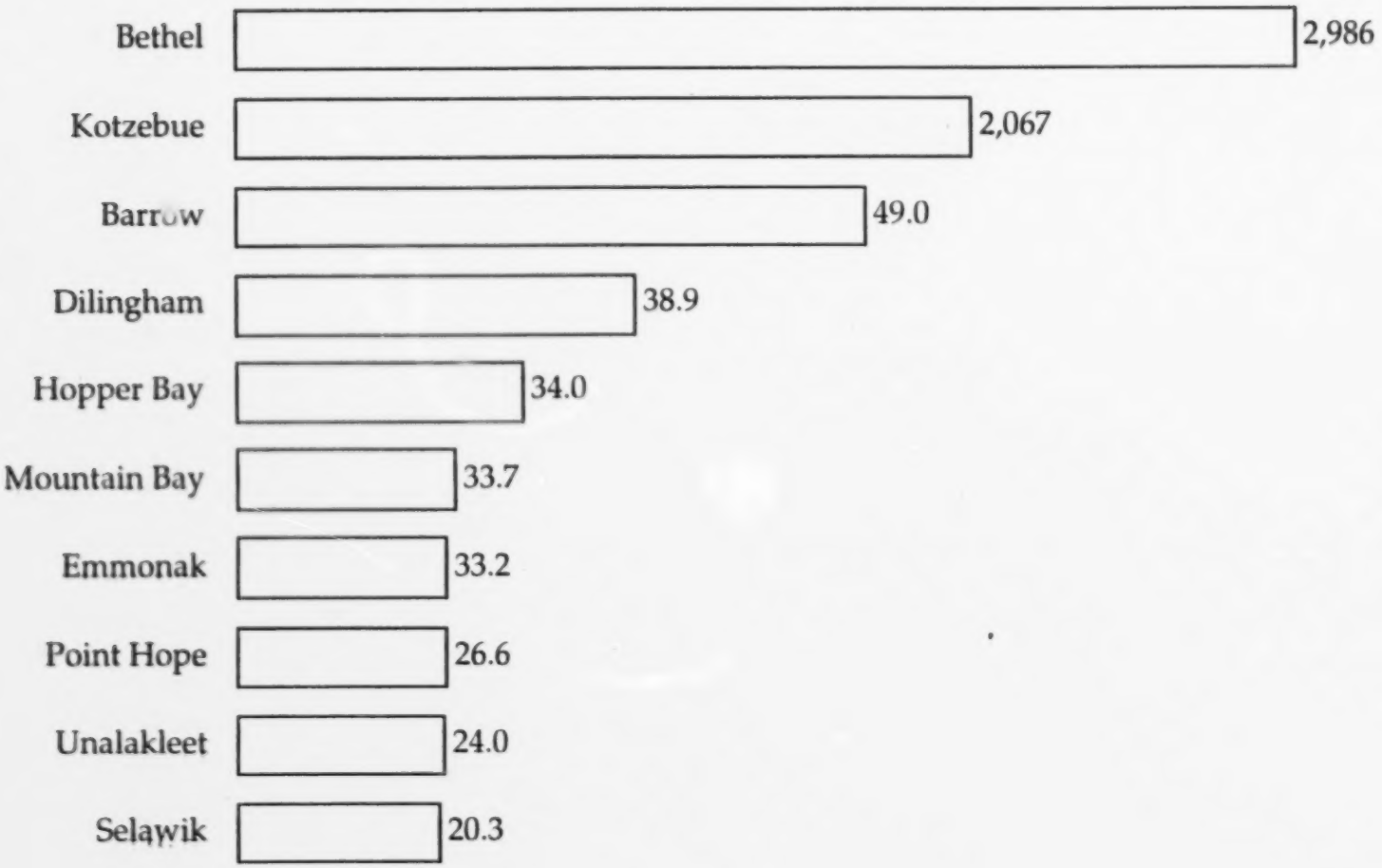
Distribution of the American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut Population Inside and Outside American Indian and Alaska Native Areas: 1990



American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut Population for the Alaska Native Regional Corporations in Alaska: 1990



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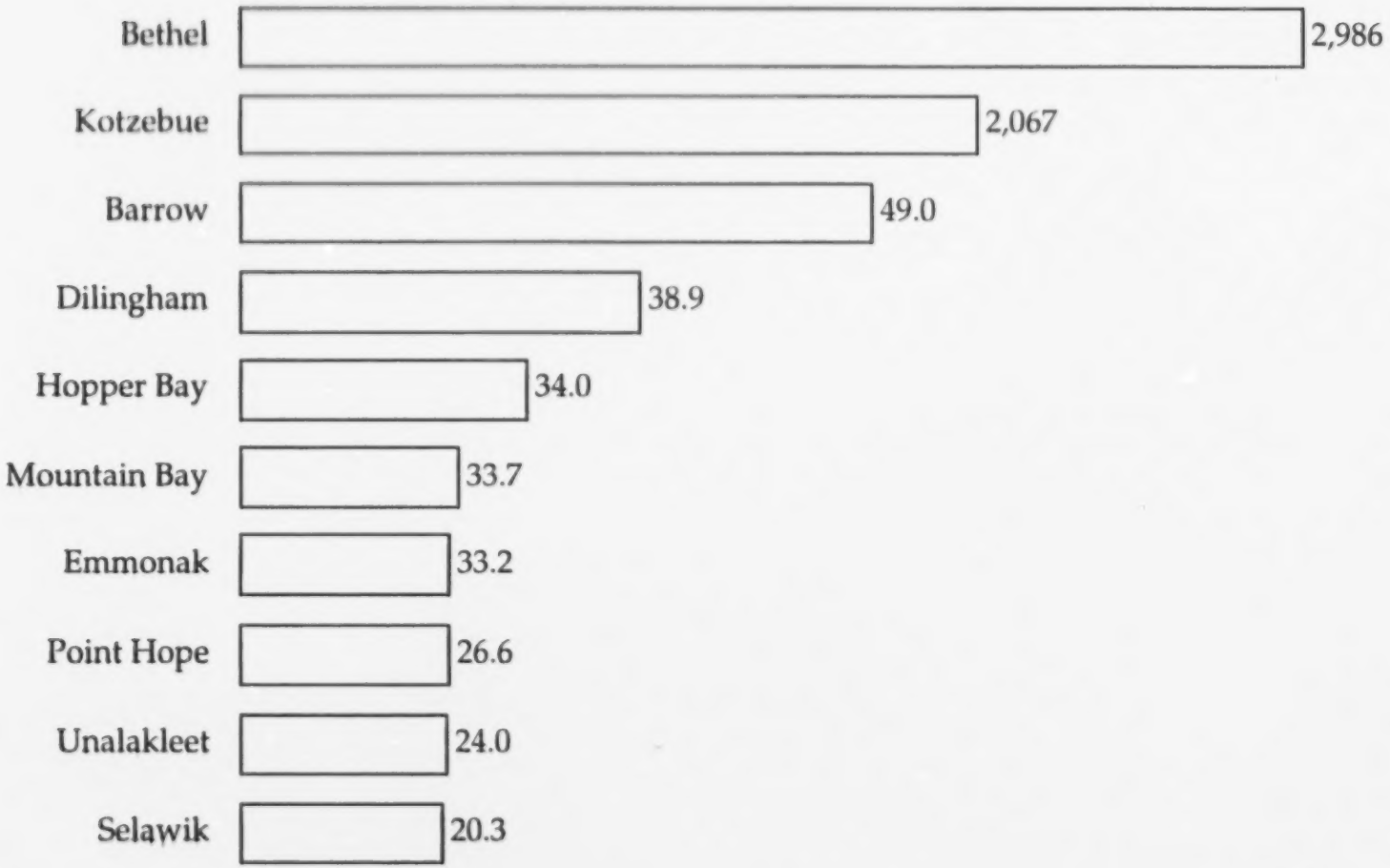
Ten Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas with the Largest American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut Population: 1990



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Demographics of American Indians with Disabilities

According to the 1990 US..... Census Bureau, the category *American Indian/ Eskimo/ Aleut* has a significantly higher rate of disability than the other "races," among persons 15-64 years old.

1991-92	PERSONS 15 TO 64 YEARS OLD	
Race/Ethnicity	Severe Disability	Overall Disability
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	11.7%	26.9%
Black	12.7%	20.8%
White	7.4%	17.7%
Hispanic origin	9.1%	16.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	4.5%	9.6%

In other words, about one in four (26.9%) American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut persons in the labor force have a disability. The *American Indian/ Eskimo/ Aleut* category does not differ significantly from Blacks and Whites in the other disability categories shown. There are considerable differences in age structures between these groups. For example, among Whites, 13% of the population was at least 65 years of age, compared with 4.7% of the American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut population .

Source: McNeil, J. (1993). *Americans with disabilities: 1991-92: Data from the survey of income and program participation.* Current Population Reports, Household Economic Studies, p. 70-33. Washington, DC: Bureau of the Census

American Indians with Disabilities

American Indian, Eskimo & Aleut
Age 16-64

	Male	Male %	Female	Female %	Total
With a Mobility or Self-Care Limitation	44,526	7 %	50,370	8 %	94,896
Mobility Limitation	20,642	3 %	24,431	4 %	46,073
In Labor Force	5,135	1 %	4,823	1 %	9,958
Self-Care Limitation	34,652	6 %	36,745	6 %	71,397
With a Work Disability	86,393	14 %	81,873	13 %	168,266
In Labor Force	37,442	6 %	25,239	4 %	62,681
Prevented from Working	42,949	7 %	47,533	7 %	90,482
No Work Disability	510,097	86 %	557,828	52 %	1,067,925
In Labor Force	415,582	70 %	359,877	56 %	775,459
TOTALS	**596,490**		**639,701**		**1,236,191**

Source: 1990 Census

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